CIA/its agents, Operations; WxPost on; Art Kevin interviews with agent HW 1/22/75

Art Kevin has had a long taped interview with a man claiming to have been a former clandestine operative, including Cuba and Haiti. Art discussed this with me prior to the interview to prepare and twice after it, the last time after supper last night. He has had the tape transcribed and is sending me a copy of it and the transcript he or the station(s) made. (His station has a TV affiliate. They aired three segments on TV, with the man's face in shadow so he could not be recognized and five on radio. I am not at all certain that this makes the man unrecognizable.)

One of the purposes of his calls and our elliptical discussions after the airing is the results of the airing. UPI had stories on the wire and these led to requests of Art. He is accepting what I take to be a Harper's offer. He is not accepting that of the Post (Henry Rosenfeld, national editor). He was astounded at the nature of the Rosenfeld call. Not that they insist on the two-source deal, as seemingly they would know would be an impossibility with such a confession. Rather the nature of the attack on Hersh. Not hidden at all and quite strong from what Art said.

His callers also included a high Agency official he did not identify by name over the phone but I presume will in writing.

While Art says his stories received major attention out there and clearly the Post and Harper's saw some kind of wire copy, I have seen and heard not a word. With wire copy it would seem that the Post does not follow this two-source standard. Or they'd never use wire copy.

Les Whitten (who used to be CIA) also phoned Art. So did Senator Mansfield's legislative assistant. These Art mentioned. Theremay have been more.

Of the events Art mentioned I can identify each one as having happened. This led to my having some questions because it was all public knowledge. I cautioned him about being entrapped, against a Department of Disinformation operation, and reminded him about the Rase/Turner/Ramparts deal with Garrison and that it could have been pulled only because my suspicions, which he did recall from early 1968, were unheeded.(Farewell America.)

At the same time, the extent of the information is such that this would have to be a major operation for disinformation or the source had to have done a major study to be able to rattle off all that stuff that could be checked out.

When his source rattled off the names of Cuban groups, like MRR, MIRR, and of Cubans, like Masferrer, they meant nothing to Art. But here again the info was straight, what could be checked out and stack. However, aside from direct allegation that CIA was behind it, nothing new. Heavy on the Haitian, with solid details. This guy claims to have been part of the Colonel Leon invasion, too, a pilot. Part of the Congo. (All dates stacked.)

We spent about an hour and a half discussing the details and the cautions I had to offer. I suggested neither discounting nor insisting on the authenticity of his source, just writing it straight, as an allegation that is consistent with what is known where it can be checked against what is known.

I taped our conversations and I will have the tape of the interview and the transcript, all to be filed separately.

Art is to interview Morton "Tony" Jackson. Preparatory to it I had suggested that he check Martindale-Hubbell. He had the current, and it shows but a single partner. I think I remember more. Anyway, from the biography I was able to show Art the blanks that would seem to indicate his spooking. He knows Jackson but only as "Tony," the old nickname Hunt uses in Undercover. Had it not been for this spook interview he'd have interviewed Jackson by now.

The man told him that he and other contract agents have grown bitter over some of the things that happened. Like the killings of their pals. He also claimed they were on both sides in the Congo, Tshombe and Mobutu, and they bombed and killed both sides.

The CIA desire to get rid of Papa Doc was attributed to fear that the Mafia was moving in with gambling. My concern at this part of the story, as I told Art, is that I'd have expected CIA to have a more likely gang for the job, not that bunch that could not capture Burdines, as O in NO describes them. I referred him to WW II and to O in NO.

I also referred him to Hall, Howard and Hemming - with skepticism - for their views on what he'd been told. When I told him that Howard and Hemming had told me of an uncoming Haiti invasion in 10/68, he said Hemming is in Miami.